

**Indiana Chamber of Commerce Statement
US Steel NPDES Public Hearing
December 11, 2007**

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce, with more than 4,600 members, is the state's largest advocacy organization representing the business community. The steel industry represents one of the state's premier business sectors and is integral to regional, state and national economic vitality. US Steel represents a significant portion of that segment. US Steel and the entire Indiana steel industry have made major investments in their operations to reduce pollution in all areas of their processes, including water discharges.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management has aggressively worked to reduce the number of outstanding NPDES permits; one example is this US Steel case. The US Steel water/NPDES permit discussed today meets or exceeds restrictive federal and state standards. US Steel has followed the detailed permit approval process as prescribed by the Clean Water Act, which includes public review, comment and final approval by the Environmental Protection Agency. This permit will install new and restrictive water quality standards on US Steel that will improve the environment and preserve an important element of our state and national economy.

The Indiana Chamber asks only that the US Steel water permit be fairly judged, using sound science, and there be recognition that US Steel has abided by the detailed permit approval process. Recently, there have been instances in other industries in which the company seeking permit approval has been unjustly attacked despite following the proper procedure and demonstrating, with sound science, that the permit will in fact meet or exceed the environmental standards. These attacks have been based on misinformation and misperceptions in an effort to promote an unrelated political agenda.

In summation, US Steel has respected the detailed permit process, submitted data based on sound science and is deserving of its water permit. The Indiana Chamber appreciates the opportunity to speak on this matter and strongly supports the approval of the US Steel water permit.



Vince Griffin
Vice President, Environmental and Energy Policy
(317) 264-6881



Indiana Manufacturers Association, Inc.

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December 7, 2007

David Soong
EPA Region 5
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: NPDES Permit for USS, Gary Works

Dear Mr. Soong:

The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) supports the issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES) to United States Steel Corporation for the Gary Works. Permits issued to industry are of critical importance to the economy and environment in Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) should be commended for its efforts in recent years to reduce the backlog of NPDES permits. The issuance of permits represents progress for the economy and environment. The permits, to say the least, are complicated; and the amount of time invested by IDEM staff and permittee staff is significant.

The permits issued by IDEM, under the auspices of the Clean Water Act, meet both the spirit and letter of the law. It is the hope of the IMA that IDEM will continue to issue quality permits and that our membership will continue to utilize these permits in the manner they are designed: allowing a necessary manufacturing process that is protective of the environment. The use of the permits is a sign of a vibrant economy and also continuous improvement in environmental protection.

Unfortunately, in the recent past, some have criticized IDEM and permittees for the issuance of permits. The criticism was in large part derived from misinformation and questionable political motive. As a result, the economy and environment suffer; capital will likely be invested elsewhere and continuous environmental improvement through permitting is stifled because the new permits are not put in place.

The environment and the economy would be improved by the issuance of new permits. The IMA encourages the EPA and IDEM to continue striving for improvement on these fronts by continuing to work with permit holders in the issuance of these vitally important permits.

Sincerely,

Patrick K. Bennett
V.P. Environment, Energy and Infrastructure



THE LEADER IN ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING

December 11, 2007

U.S. Steel - Gary Works Plant

Good afternoon. I'm here on behalf of one of Gary Works vendors. My name is Kurt ILL and I am the Laboratory Director for TestAmerica's, Valparaiso, Indiana Laboratory.

Our laboratory and personnel provide the sampling and chemical analysis support for US Steel's Gary Works discharge permit and ground water monitoring programs as well as process water monitoring and other various cleanup projects.

We have been providing these services for over 10 years and work closely with the folks at US Steel to ensure that they are in compliance with their permits. Gary Works has a proven compliance record of meeting and exceeding all the guidelines set for this facility by IDEM. The new permits will decrease the amount of allowable discharge from the plant and help to improve the local environment.

I support the Gary Works plant because I know what they have done for this region and what they have done to be an environmentally compliant company.

I would also like to thank the US EPA and Indiana Department of Environmental Management for ensuring that this permit will continue to protect Lake Michigan and the Grand Calumet River.

Charter School of the Dunes

Gary, IN 46403 - 1620

To whom it may concern,

They shouldn't be ~~the~~ ^{the} steel mills dump these contaminants in the lakes. People swim in these lakes and we get food from them. If we don't stop dumping things in the lakes, when fishermen catch fish, sell them to market then, people buy the fish then eat them they could get a disease or die!

If we don't stop dumping people could catch diseases from breathing air. Also, humans could have birth defects. Or if we catch a disease it could spread across the whole world. That's why I think they should stop dumping things in the lake.

Sincerely,

To who it may concern

Dear Steel Mill

I dont think its a good idea
to dump contaminants in the
Lake. you already giving us pollution
when the pollution from those
plants are bad enough.
also do you remember what
happend during the 70s it was
so bad that dead fish and birds
were washing up on the shore.
I not the only but I know theres
enough problems lets not create
another one.

Sincerely,

~~_____~~
~~_____~~

To whom it may concern,

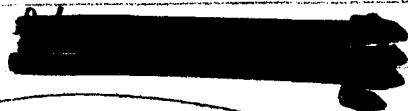
The lake is part of our home. This beach is what we love and the effects of this is that most animals will die of these contaminants.

Years from now this lake may not be here. To make our lake better we don't need to add bad things to this once beautiful lake. I must ask you what your incentive may be for you to dump nasty waste into a lake that is not good now.

Though the lake is not what it could be, but to make it right we have to strive for a better lake. We have lost many things and now we have a chance to save this wonderful resource.

Please take this to mind and help us make a difference.

Making the world loving for everyone,



Dear steel mill

One day when I was going swimming we couldn't swim in the beach because it was dirty and because we can get sick. The water was ~~so~~ dirty because you and your friend ~~kept~~ kept dumping things in the water and never take it out ~~or~~ clean it. So please can you stop dumping things in the water and find something else to take the dirty things that you kept dumping in the water some wear else.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
Date: 12/11/07

E. p. A


Dear To Whom it may concern

Hi to who ever this letter is going to please dont dump that wast in Our lake. Ok you guys have been poluting the lake For Over years and we dont like it but if you dump this wast we will start dieing. Like some people will get Cancer, get posined, and start getting Sick For no aparent reason.

So us kids parents and as a Community ask you Please dont dump any toxic wast, wast or any thing elce to harm us.

P.S. We hope
YOU Dont
Dump Wast in Our lake

Dear to whom it may concern,
Please, help us stop the steel mills from
dumping mercury in Lake Michigan. First, lots
of fish live in that lake. Second, lots of land
animals depend on the fish and water the lake
provides. Third, animals and people may die or be
mutated. Fourth, it can cause animal's young to
have birth defects. Fifth, that's where people swim
and gather to have fun.

Sincerely,


Dear to whom it may concern

Hi I'm with Charter School of the Dunes and I am asking you can you tell the Steel Mill to stop dumping stuff into our water cause that is hurting our population and if we smell that population people will get health problems smelling that pollution and I know you guys don't want that everybody in the city does cause smelling that so can you tell them to stop doing that please we are begging you.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Please do not dump your contaminants in the Lake. In the 70's the Lake was really bad. I like it the way it is Today! If you dump your contaminants in the Lake it can cause kids and adults could die quicker all because of you. Do you believe in God? If you do good for others God will bless you. For an example if you ever want to get out of U.S. Steel Mill God will do that! Could you please keep our lake clean. It will never be the same if you keep on dumping contaminants!

P.S. [REDACTED]

Dear Steel mill.

Please steel mill do not dump that
contaminants in our Lake Michigan we need that lake for
the animals and us. do you really ^{know} what will happen if
you dump that contaminants in our lake it will turn dark
green and it will make a horrible smell and will
kill animals and humans. It will cause people to
have lung disease and cancer. So just dump it where you
been dumping it.

Sincerely [REDACTED]

Dear Town whom they may concern

I don't want you to put contaminants
in your lake our school is in front
of the lake. I myself ran cross country
and we ran by lake it a pretty sight.
I love the water, pond and lakes.
We do have so please don't do these

Don't Do It

Love: [redacted] 6th
grade

P.S. Don't Because I
will deliver you can
first class 62.

Thank You ! ! ! !
o o o o

12/11/07

Dear To whom it may concern,

Please do not throw contaminants in water we play in, in the summer. Also, think about what pollution can do to our health from breathing in polluted oxygen. Throwing that stuff in the water could kill us and your families who live around here. Think about what kind of health issues it could cause cancer, breathing issues, + could mess with peoples asthma too. Just think about what you do before you do it.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear To whom it may concern,

We 6th graders do not want you to dump in Lake Michigan. We 6th graders don't want you to dump contaminants in Lake Michigan because us humans we play in Lake Michigan and if you dump in Lake Michigan you will make people sick and they might die if they get too sick. Another reason is, the lake is all ready bad enough that our lake is polluted and if you dump the contamination in Lake Michigan it will get worse. That is why we don't want you to dump this contamination in Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,

P.S. Please don't dump in our lake.

To Whom it may concern

Please don't put your contaminants into our lake. If you put your contaminants in our lake it will cause pollution. This pollution can cause cancer and effect your health in a negative way. Also, it can hurt the environment and kill the animals.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

Statement of Congressman Peter J. Visclosky

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Public hearing
On U.S. Steel's Gary Works National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit**

I would like to thank the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 for holding a public hearing in Northwest Indiana on the very important issue of U.S. Steel Gary Works' National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit. I would also like to thank the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for attending this hearing, and Indiana University Northwest for providing the forum.

Continued improvement in the quality of water in the Great Lakes basin is in the interest of everyone in Northwest Indiana, the surrounding states, the nation, and the planet. Given the importance of clean water in our collective quality of life, I believe elected officials, policy makers, and industry must work together to strengthen our sources of clean water.

I commend the current efforts of the EPA and the IDEM to develop U.S. Steel Corporation's NPDES permit. I would also like to thank the environmental community in Northwest Indiana for their diligent work to ensure that this permitting process is conducted in a public and transparent fashion, and to ensure that the citizenry of Northwest Indiana have the opportunity to be a part of the permitting process through today's public hearing.

The issue of water quality has been at the forefront of public discourse in Northwest Indiana, as it should be. Given the importance of this issue, I urged the EPA to hold today's public hearing in Northwest Indiana to explain the reasoning for their concern with the draft permit and the steps by which it will work with IDEM on revisions to assure the draft permit complies or exceeds with the Clean Water Act and EPA regulations. It is important that the EPA and IDEM work closely with U.S. Steel to ensure the permit reflects federal and state discharge limits, which will allow the company to be more competitive as it updates its facilities, while doing everything possible to improve the quality of our waterways.

Water quality transcends many of the most important issues our nation faces. It is a health issue. It is an environmental issue. It is an economic development issue, and it affects everyone's quality of life.

It is my hope that today's public hearing will provide an opportunity for all parties to work together to successfully resolve the permitting issue in a way that protects our water resources, and in a way that will allow private industry along the south shore of Lake Michigan to profitably operate in an improved environmental fashion.

MARK STEVEN KIRK
10TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON
APPROPRIATIONS

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CONGRESSIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

December 11, 2007

Ms. Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: NPDES Permit No. IN0000281
Draft Permit
United States Steel Corporation, Gary Works
Gary, Indiana, Lake County

Dear Regional Administrator Gade:

I am writing to comment on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit drafted by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for United States Steel Corporation, Gary Works facility in Gary, Indiana.

Thank you for your diligence in reviewing this draft permit and prohibiting its enactment without receiving further assurances of its compliance with the Clean Water Act and all antidegradation requirements. The permit's objectionable provisions deserve public scrutiny, and I commend you for holding this important hearing.

The Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater system and serve as a source of drinking water, food, jobs and recreation for more than thirty million Americans. It is essential that we enhance our restoration efforts for this critical resource and not further degrade the condition of the Lakes.

I am deeply concerned that we continue to increase contamination discharged into the Great Lakes each year, be it municipal sewage or industrial chemicals from the existing permit. This draft NPDES permit increases discharge limitations for both chromium and zinc. The draft permit allows for a 63 percent increase in the total recoverable chromium discharged per day as a monthly average and a 56 percent increase in the toxin discharged as a daily maximum. It further allows for zinc discharges to be increased from 11.85 lbs/day to 13.1 lbs/day as a monthly average and 36.38 lbs/day to 39.1 lbs/day as a daily maximum.

In addition to these alarming increases, there are a number of discrepancies between the draft permit and the accompanying fact sheet's explanation of the limits. First, IDEM explains in its fact sheet that limitations were derived from the most stringent of three standards: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) technology-based standards, local Water Quality-Based Effluent Limitations (WQBELs), and the previous permit's limitations. However, this formula was ignored for Total Suspended Solids at outfall 604. The draft permit's monthly limit for Total Suspended Solids discharged exceeds the EPA technology-based standards by 30 lbs/day.

Second, EPA's technology-based standard is ignored for lead discharged at outfall 603. The EPA standard requires various numeric limits for lead discharges, yet the draft permit calls only for monitoring and reporting of this chemical. IDEM failed to explain why it chose to place such loose restrictions on lead discharges, disregarding EPA standards.

A similar problem occurs at outfall 20. The fact sheet notes that discharges of mercury, total residual chlorine and lead from this outfall have the reasonable potential to exceed water quality standards. Consequently, WQBELs must be set in this permit. While the draft permit includes numeric limitations for mercury and total residual chlorine, it again only requires monitoring and reporting for lead. No explanation exists for why this particular chemical does not require a numeric limitation while the others do.

While these increases and discrepancies may seem small, they have serious consequences for the future of water quality protection. It is critical that we set a precedent to achieve the maximum standards and reduce pollution of all contamination.

The compliance schedules set in this draft permit also pose a serious problem. The permit allows five years to comply with mercury, copper, cyanide, ammonia, zinc and Benzo(a)pyrene limits and has no interim limit, just reporting requirements. This clearly violates the Clean Water Act. Under the Act, compliance schedules for pollutants which are already limited must not be longer than one year or must have interim limits if longer than one year. Additionally, the draft permit allows for a variance in mercury discharges. So even after five years, it is unclear what exactly the mercury limit will be. The compliance schedules must be eliminated and IDEM must clearly prescribe limits for mercury discharges.

The obfuscatory nature of this permit is also concerning. The draft permit and the fact sheet focus on more than two dozen individual discharge points, yet no comprehensive analysis of the discharges exist. Also, numerous discharges require only monitoring and reporting, as opposed to specific discharge limits. Thus, the permit's total aggregate impact on the Great Lakes is nearly impossible to assess, leaving unclear the question of whether or not water quality is being protected.

The answer to this question must always be *yes*. Should we fail to affirm this most basic principle, we fail in not only upholding the law, but our duty to the ecosystem, those that are sustained by it and future generations who will rely on it.

IDEM should redraft this permit with U.S. Steel to require the most stringent limits and standards, including the prohibition of exceeding the existing permit's standards. They should also prepare a comprehensive analysis of the effluent discharges to clearly demonstrate that water quality will not be degraded.

In addition to these immediate actions, the Great Lakes stakeholders must come together and work toward the long-term improvement and restoration of the Lakes. Between IDEM's drafting of this flawed permit and the recent permit allowed to take effect for British Petroleum, it is clear our water quality protection system is broken. Industries should be held accountable for the contaminants they discharge and should work toward the reduction of such pollution, but state and federal administrators must also prevent such exceedances from being allowed and administer the Clean Water Act in the spirit with which it was conceived – to protect our waters to the maximum allowable extent. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the rest of the Great Lake community in achieving this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Kirk", written in a cursive style.

Mark Steven Kirk
Member of Congress



The Izaak Walton League of America

INCORPORATED

DEFENDERS OF AIR, WATER, SOIL, WOODS AND WILDLIFE

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EAST CENTRAL VICE-PRES.
JULIA REISMILLER

The Izaak Walton League of America, Indiana Division thanks the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for its diligence in reviewing the draft NPDES Permit for the United States Steel Corporation Gary Works. The agency's decision to schedule a public hearing in Gary, Indiana, in light of the demonstrated public interest in this permit, is in the public interest.

The Izaak Walton League of America was founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1922. The Indiana Division, a State Chapter of the national organization, was founded in 1922.

The League has maintained and continues to maintain strong conservation policies supporting protection and enhancement of Lake Michigan as well long standing support for the Clean Water Act. This includes support for a unified and coordinated state and federal four-state policy for adequate protection of Lake Michigan at both the state and the federal level, including evaluation of the social, economic, and ecological qualities of Lake Michigan.

The League's Indiana Division continues to support stringent effluent standards for all discharges to Lake Michigan as well for discharges to the rest of the waters of the state of Indiana. The League was a major advocate of Indiana's adoption of the 1990 water quality standards, characterized at the time as some of the best in the country.

The League has a long standing policy of limiting any increase in the temperature of Lake Michigan to no more than one degree Fahrenheit above ambient. EPA, in commenting on the draft U.S. Steel permit, called attention to the issue of both temperature monitoring and compliance with GLI standards. We agree that compliance with temperature limits in both Lake Michigan and the Grand Calumet River must be improved in this permit.

We also support establishment and strict interpretation of a nondegradation policy for discharges to Indiana's waters. The League worked for adoption of Indiana's Great Lakes water quality standards and implementation rules in 1997 which included adoption of antidegradation policies which we believed would bring enhanced protection to the Lake Michigan and tributaries in Indiana's Great Lakes Basin. As presently carried out and interpreted at both the state and federal levels, the League is disappointed in its application.

More particularly, we believe US Steel, should pay the full costs of cleaning up their wastes. In addition the agencies should impose uniform technological requirements to achieve and maintain water quality standards, as long as these effluent limit guidelines are up to date. Protecting Lake Michigan and the Grand Calumet River water quality also requires adequate plans and controls over nonpoint source and storm water pollution as well. When technology based requirements are insufficient to ensure that a water body will meet water quality standards, more stringent requirements in the form of water quality based effluent limitations must be required wherever indicated in the US Steel permit to ensure that water quality standards will be met.

Further, we want to see a firm nonpoint source pollution control policy applying to US Steel's harbor and all other Lake Michigan port and industrial harbors. This should require improved handling of all shipboard wastes and residues as well as environmentally designed and operated fueling servicing and cargo transferring procedures. These suggestions may go beyond the specific issues involved in the US Steel permit, but ports and harbors must be evaluated for their potential for discharging either direct or nonpoint sources of pollutants.

The League strongly supports the objectives of the Clean Water Act to "restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nations waters," Indiana's declaration that all Indiana waters are to be "fishable, swimmable, and drinkable," and the often ignored principle of protection of existing uses as well as designated uses.

For those waterway segments into which U.S. Steel discharges that remain on Indiana's 2006 303 (d) list of impaired waters, total maximum daily load determinations must be made, or if in process, must be completed so that this draft permit will contain the required effluent limits and nonpoint source controls that will bring these waters into attainment of water quality standards.

US EPA and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management have an opportunity to make necessary improvements to the US. Steel permit so that this permit becomes a model for attaining the goals of the Clean Water Act and the Great Lakes Water Quality Guidance.

Sincerely,

Charles Siar
President, Indiana Division

Testimony of the City of Chicago Department of Environment

Regarding United State Steel's

Draft NPDES Permit

USEPA Hearing

December 11, 2007

- My name is Maggie Rice. I am a Deputy Commissioner for the City of Chicago Department of Environment. On behalf of Chicago, I want to thank the Administrator for this opportunity to comment.
- Lake Michigan and its tributaries are this region's greatest natural asset. The Great Lakes support the health and economies of millions of residents and thousands of communities across the United States and Canada. And they have always been the driver of industrial development in Northern Illinois and Northwest Indiana.
- Under Mayor Daley's leadership, the City of Chicago has made improving the quality of Great Lakes water a top priority. Chicago is staunchly committed to protecting its water resources.
- Chicago agrees with the objections raised in the USEPA's October 1 and October 16, 2007 letters. Chicago also has submitted its own comments to IDEM about the draft permit. I am here today to emphasize one of the points made in our comments.
- The City of Chicago has serious concerns about the compliance schedule set out in the draft permit:
 - The law requires the draft permit to contain appropriate water-quality-based and technology-based effluent limitations.
 - United States Steel has already had 8 years to come into compliance with some of these standards, and the draft permit would allow the company another 5 years to comply at certain outfalls. In many cases, the draft permit imposes no or only minimal interim limitations.
 - The pollutants involved include mercury, benzo(a)pyrene, ammonia, and free cyanide, pollutants that are known to pose risks to our lakes and rivers.

- U.S. Steel and IDEM have failed to provide any legitimate justification for the 5-year grace period. They should be forced not only to justify, but to accelerate, the schedule.
- The City of Chicago supports industrial development and understands U.S. Steel's vital significance to the regional economy. But Chicago believes that industrial activities and environmental protection not only can, but must, co-exist. Companies that rely on the fresh water of Lake Michigan have a responsibility to keep it clean for current stakeholders and future generations.
- Once again thank you to the USEPA for convening this hearing and for allowing us an opportunity to make the City of Chicago's comments.

Please direct any questions concerning these comments to Larry Merritt, Public Information Office of the City of Chicago Department of Environment, 312-744-5716.

**TESTIMONY CONCERNING USEPA OBJECTIONS
TO U.S. STEEL'S DRAFT NPDES PERMIT**

**Gary, Indiana
December 11, 2007
Stephen J. Sylvester
Assistant Attorney General
Illinois Attorney General's Office**

Good afternoon, my name is Stephen Sylvester and I am testifying on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois by and through Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. I would like to thank the USEPA Region V Administrator Mary Gade for making possible this public hearing and for the opportunity to offer our comments on the U.S. EPA's objections to the draft NPDES permit for U.S. Steel's, Gary Works facility, which was issued by IDEM on July 2, 2007. We would also like to commend the USEPA for its recognition of the significant deficiencies in the U.S. Steel draft permit and for raising its objections to the issuance of the draft permit as articulated in its October 1st and 16th letters.

The People of the State of Illinois have a compelling interest in the discharge of inadequately treated process wastewater into the Grand Calumet River, an interstate body of water that flows into Illinois from Indiana. The Grand Calumet River is also tributary to Lake Michigan, a navigable water of the United States and an Outstanding State Resource Water, as designated by Indiana Law. The People of the State of Illinois also have a compelling interest in the discharge of wastewater directly or indirectly into Lake Michigan, a resource that Illinois and Indiana share.

To begin, we object to the compliance schedules provided by IDEM allowing U.S. Steel up to five years to meet the Great Lakes System water quality standards that were enacted over 10 years ago. First, Federal rules expressly state that all new and reissued NPDES permits require immediate compliance with current effluent limitations, which is clearly not the case with the draft permit. Second, U.S. Steel has not demonstrated the reasonableness of delaying its compliance as required by the Indiana NPDES rules. Third, by requesting a 5-year compliance schedule for a 5-year permit, U.S. Steel is in effect requesting a de facto variance from the effluent limits for the relevant pollutants, including mercury. There is no rational or reasonable justification for the extended compliance schedule in the draft permit because U.S. Steel has been operating on the same expired permit issued in September 1994, over thirteen years ago. This is an untenable and unacceptable time schedule.

We concur with the U.S. EPA's objections set forth in its October 1st letter stating that the 5 year compliance schedule for achievement of water quality-based effluent limitations contained in the draft permit are unsupported. We also agree with the U.S. EPA's objections set forth in its October 16th letter stating that inclusion of schedules for achieving compliance with continuous thermal monitoring requirements and thermal water quality-based effluent limitations is unsupported. In fact there is no indication that US Steel cannot currently meet these requirements.

In both of its objection letters, the U.S. EPA raised concerns that the draft permit failed to demonstrate that the effluent limitations for several pollutants from at least two internal outfalls in the permit met the antidegradation requirements of Indiana's water quality standards. We fully support the U.S. EPA's position on this important water quality issue.

In its October 1st letter, the U.S. EPA took issue with the draft permit's proposed water quality-based effluent limitations for discharges from various outfalls of carbonaceous biochemical oxygen demand (CBOD₅) and whole effluent toxicity. Also in the same letter the U.S. EPA raised objections to the draft permit's proposed technology based effluent limitations. Specifically, there were discrepancies between the fact sheet and the draft permit for monthly average load limitations for copper, lead, and zinc, as well as the daily maximum load limitations for lead and zinc. We are in accord with the objections raised by U.S. EPA on the effluent limitations in the draft permit.

Finally, the U.S. EPA objected to the draft permit's failure to require U.S. Steel to employ the best technology available to minimize the adverse environmental impacts associated with its cooling water intake structures. We are also in agreement with the U.S. EPA's misgivings on the permit's deficiency in employing the best technology available.

In sum, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan on behalf of the People of the State of Illinois, objects to the compliance schedules in the draft permit and also concurs in the U.S. EPA's objections raised in its October 1st and 16th letters regarding the draft NPDES permit for U.S. Steel's Gary Works. The NPDES permit should not be issued until the deficiencies identified have been fully remedied and a new draft permit is made available for public review and comment. Further, we recommend that U.S. Steel, immediately initiate the engineering design and project specifications for the construction and implementation of the facilities that would enable it to comply with the new NPDES permit requirements. Thank you.



Indiana Wildlife Federation

AFFILIATE OF NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

December 11, 2007

Ms. Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 W Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, Illinois 60604

**RE: U.S Steel Corporation – Gary Works
NPDES Permit No: IN0000281**

Dear Ms. Gade:

My name is Janet Ryan. I am President of the Indiana Wildlife Federation. On behalf of the IWF, I would like to thank you for granting us this public meeting and allowing our concerns to be expressed.

The IWF is a state-wide, non-profit organization, created in 1938 for the protection and preservation of our natural resources and our sporting heritage. I have been a resident of Northwest Indiana my entire life, as have many members of the IWF.

Once known as the Sweetwater Seas, the Great Lakes comprise the largest source of fresh water in the world. Our history and our heritage are linked to the Great Lakes and as Hoosiers are linked to Lake Michigan and its tributaries. We have seen the damage that has been done by untreated sewage, industrial pollutants and invasive species.

The IWF objects to the continued and unlimited amounts of pollutants U.S. Steel is allowed to discharge into Lake Michigan.

The IWF recommends a stronger permit. A permit that has tighter controls and oversight in the affected areas. Any pollutants discharged into the water will affect the health of the aquatic life that lives in our waters. It will also have an economic affect that lowers the quality of life of the people of Northwest Indiana.

We have joined with other concerned organizations to develop a letter explaining our objections. This letter will be read at a different time and IWF puts its full support behind this letter.

Now, more than ever, is the time to work together with sporting, conservation and environmental groups to ensure the health of Lake Michigan and its tributaries. To protect them so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

Sincerely,

Janet Ryan

President, Indiana Wildlife Federation, Inc.

**Talking Points regarding EPA's objections to
IDEM's review of US Steel's NPDES permit**

The Great Lakes are home to 95 percent of America's fresh surface water, providing drinking water, jobs and recreation to some 40 million people. A one-time gift from the glaciers, the waters are largely non-renewable and irreplaceable. U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed diminish the environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline. We believe that the proposed NPDES permit for USS must go further in preventing pollution and achieving clean water:

1. US Steel's draft permit fails to show compliance with the Clean Water Act's (CWA) anti-degradation requirements. In furtherance of its goal to improve water quality, the CWA requires industries who claim that they cannot maintain current levels of pollutant discharges to demonstrate an adequate reason for their inability to maintain these limits. Further, the demonstrations should be, but are not, reviewed by independent evaluators. US Steel should be required to prepare such a demonstration to justify their proposed discharge increases of cyanide, chromium, and possibly oil and grease at several internal and external outfalls. Moreover, the Grand Calumet River is already in violation of water quality standards for oil and grease. Any discharge increases are illegal without a sufficient anti-degradation demonstration.
2. IDEM was supposed to set discharge limits on arsenic, chromium, cyanide compounds, lead compounds, manganese compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and nitrate compounds by 1989. IDEM has failed to set any limits for these toxins and therefore US Steel has been given no limitations on the discharge of these pollutants in the current draft permit.
3. The EPA set limits on discharges of such toxins as cyanide, copper, zinc and ammonia in 1997 and gave industries five years to meet those limits. Despite this, US Steel claims that they need at least another five years to attain those

limits. IDEM has approved this delay and has not required US Steel to provide a reason for the delay.

4. IDEM has either failed to review US Steel's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan or has failed to disclose its contents to the public, despite the CWA's requirement to monitor and report the content of storm water run-off.
5. IDEM has failed to consider the cumulative impact of the years-long discharge of pollutants into the Grand Calumet River when granting US Steel a permit to continue discharges of toxins.
6. IDEM has allowed US Steel to put off their responsibility to adequately monitor the temperature of warmed water discharged into the Grand Calumet that prevents Salmonids from living in there. Further, because the Salmonids are prevented from living there, due to warm water discharges, IDEM allows US Steel to discharge a higher amount of cyanide. This is an outrage.

Please ask EPA and IDEM who will correct these egregious violations to our local natural resources! Please continue to demand that these issues be addressed in meaningful, transparent ways that allow the public to have confidence that the government bodies assigned the task of protecting our environment are held to account.

Submitted by the Lake Michigan Environmental Coalition on December 11, 2007.

For more information, please visit the following websites:

www.savedunes.org

www.leafindiana.org

July 25, 2007 - MIDREX® Iron Production surpasses 500 million tons

Charlotte, NC – Midrex Technologies, Inc. announced today that the world total of direct reduced iron (DRI) produced using the MIDREX® Direct Reduction Process has surpassed 500 million tons.

This historic milestone has been four decades in the making.

The first commercial Midrex Plant began operation in 1969 in Portland Oregon, and the technology has steadily evolved and grown. Since Portland, Midrex has built more than 60 MIDREX® Modules in 19 countries worldwide and has become the leading process technology for producing DRI with more than 60% of the world's DRI produced using MIDREX® Technology. For nearly 40 years the natural gas-based MIDREX® Process has been one of the most environmentally friendly methods to make iron producing 1/3 the total CO2 emissions as that produced by a Blast Furnace.

"This production milestone is a great example of how much we have progressed as a process technology and as a company since Portland, Oregon less than 40 years ago" according to James D. McClaskey, President and CEO of Midrex Technologies, Inc. "In addition to this milestone, we just recently we began engineering on our newest contracted project, ESISCO, the first 2G HOTLINK Plant and the largest MIDREX module ever to be built in Egypt. The market is healthy and the future is bright."

Midrex has been awarded numerous contracts for new plants over the past few years and commissioning of these plants has already begun. At the current rate of growth, MIDREX® Iron, DRI produced by the MIDREX® Process, will surpass one billion tons by 2015.

To put in perspective, 500 million tons of iron is the same amount of iron produced since the dawn of man to 1870.

Direct Reduced Iron and the World Market

Direct reduced iron (DRI) is a high quality iron product created through the removal of oxygen from iron ore without melting and is produced in pellet and lump forms and is generally used at an adjacent steelmaking facility.

Direct reduction has become an increasingly important aspect of the global steel industry, with current annual production of over 50 million tons. World DRI production has increased continually since 1970, with a compound annual growth rate of 13 percent per year. This has occurred because of the growth of EAF steelmaking, the movement of mini-mills into low residual products, and EAF feedstock limitations.

A Clean Environment

Worldwide, there is an increasing emphasis on environmental issues and the steel industry is under intense scrutiny. The emissions from integrated steel mills, especially sinter plants and coke ovens, are a particular concern. As a member of the global community, Midrex along with its parent company, Kobe Steel, recognizes the importance of the environment and the limits to natural resources. Through the years we have been proactive in reducing the environmental impact of our iron and steelmaking processes.

Today the focus is on avoiding pollution rather than controlling and treating it, with a goal of zero emissions and waste. Steelmakers cannot continue to landfill wastes and treat gaseous emissions at the "end of the pipe." Most MIDREX® Direct Reduction Plants are designed for 100 percent recycle of process gases and water.

Reducing energy use goes hand-in-hand with environmental benefits because it automatically leads to lower emissions. In the US it now takes about one-half the energy to produce a ton of steel as it did in 1975. State-of-the-art MIDREX Plants are extremely energy efficient, with natural gas consumptions as low as 2.3 net Gcal/t DRI.

MIDREX Plants are designed to minimize air, water, and noise pollution. Emission levels for the MIDREX® Process meet all applicable 1998 World Bank standards. Carbon dioxide emissions are becoming a concern and in this regard, the MIDREX Plant/EAF route to steelmaking has an advantage versus the traditional blast furnace/BOF route. In some cases, a MIDREX Plant/EAF facility has only one-third the carbon emissions per ton of steel as a BF/BOF complex.

Another environmental issue is the disposal of metal-bearing wastes, both ferrous and non-ferrous. Integrated steel facilities and mini-mills are finding it more and more difficult to dispose of wastes from iron and steelmaking processes. These wastes include iron oxide screenings, mill scale, and baghouse dust. In addition, there are millions of tons of metal-bearing waste materials stockpiled around the world from various mining and processing operations. With the commercialization of the FASTMET® Process, there is now a cost-effective means of dealing with these wastes. There are now three FASTMET Plants in Japan treating steel mill wastes, and Midrex and Kobe Steel are discussing similar projects with many clients.

A recent report prepared for Environment Canada noted the environmental benefits of MIDREX Technologies: "It was estimated that the BAT plant [MIDREX Plant] would emit 24 percent less CO₂ and at least 24 percent less TPM, NO_x, SO_x, and VOCs than a conventional integrated plant." Further, the report recommended the FASTMET Process for recycling steel mill wastes.

Midrex will continue to devote significant efforts to reducing the environmental impact of MIDREX processes and technologies and developing solutions for the treatment of waste materials.

Direct Reduction is an iron making process for the new era, which utilizes natural gas to reduce iron ore to produce Direct Reduced Iron (DRI). As Direct Reduction Plants are not built on the same, enormous scale as Blast Furnaces, their investment costs are lower, and they have been mainly constructed in developing countries where natural gas is relatively inexpensive. Recently, however, even in developed countries, such as the United States, Direct Reduction Plants are drawing more and more attention as a way to provide a stable supply source of pure iron, substituting steel scrap.

Recently, while the production of steel via the Blast Furnace route are increasing only slightly, production via the Direct Reduction Plant route have dramatically increased. (From around 800,000 tons per year in 1970 to around 55,000,000 tons per year in 2005.)

Of several Direct Reduction processes producing DRI, the MIDREX[®] DR Process, which was developed and is owned by Midrex Technologies, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kobe Steel, accounts for about 60% of world wide production.

As a licensee of the MIDREX[®] DR Process, Kobe Steel has supplied many MIDREX[™] DR Plants all over the world. We take pride in the fact that our plants are able to perform at or above capacity with smooth and stable operations. In recent years, Kobe Steel together with Midrex have developed our own new process, the "FASTMET[®] Process" taking a step forward into a new field of Direct Reduction.

2A3. Direct Iron Ore Smelting Reduction Process (DIOS)

In charge of research and development: Center for Coal Utilization, Japan; and Japan Iron and Steel Federation
Period:1988-1995 (8 years)

Outline of technology

1.Outline

The DIOS directly uses noncaking coal in powder or granular shape and iron ore without using coke process and sintering process which are required in blast furnace process. The noncaking coal is directly charged to a smelting reduction furnace, while the iron ore is preliminarily reduced before charged to the furnace, thus the molten iron is produced.

2.Features

1. Applicable of inexpensive raw material and fuel, (noncaking coal, in-house dust, etc.)
2. Low operation cost
3. Responding flexibly to variations of production rate
4. Compact facilities, and low additional investment
5. Available in stable supply of high quality iron source
6. Effective use of coal energy
7. Easy coproduction of energy (cogeneration)
8. Low environmental load, (low SO_x, NO_x, CO₂, dust generation, no coke oven gas leak)

3.Result of study

Feasibility study was given to new installation of commercial plant of blast furnace process and of DIOS at seaside green field. Considering its superiority to blast furnace process as described below, the feasibility of DIOS can be demonstrated for the model of 6,000 tons of molten iron production (annual production of 2 million tons).

1. Investment cost is decreased by 35%.
2. Molten iron production cost is decreased by 19%.
3. Coal consumption per 1 ton of molten iron production is the same level with that of the blast furnace process, 730-750 kg.
4. Net energy consumption is decreased by 3 to 4%.
5. CO₂ emissions in the iron making process is decreased by 4 to 5%.

4.Progress of research and development

Table 1 Progress of research and development

Fiscal year	1988	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
Core								
Pilot plant test				Construction				

1) Core technology study (FY1988-FY1990)

Core technologies necessary for the construction of pilot plant were established. These core technologies include the increase in thermal efficiency of smelting reduction furnace (SRF), the connection with preliminary reduction furnace (PRF), the molten slag discharge technology, and the SRF scale up.

2) Pilot plant test (FY1993-FY1995)

1. Applicability of direct use of powder and granular ore and coal was confirmed, and necessary facility conditions were determined.

2. With various raw materials, the conditions of facilities and of operation to achieve high thermal efficiency to substitute the blast furnace were determined.

3. Technology for water cooling of furnace body was established. Conceptual design and economy evaluation (FS) for commercial facilities were conducted. The conditions of facilities and of operation to prove the superiority to the blast furnace as shown in the results of the research was clarified.



AMMONIUM END ITUA 46324

U.S. STEEL CORP. GARY WORKS.
ONE N. BROADWAY GARY IND.
DISCHARGE PERMIT GARY INDIANA

OF THE DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR
U.S. STEEL CORP GARY WORKS ONE
N. BROADWAY GARY IND. INTO
LAKE MICIGAN, GRAND CALKMUT
RIVER AND STOCKTON RIVER. SHOULD
POSSATIVELY BE DENIED FOR
THE PURPOSE OF MAJOR POLLUTANTS
INTO THE WATERWAYS THAT WOULD
CONTAMINATE THE LAKE RIVER
POND I WOULD POSSIBLY SAY
EVEN THOUGH ON THE RAILROAD
HUMAN OF THE BACK FILL OF COKE,
SINTER IRON, RAW STEEL, CAST IRON,
PLATE, HOT STRIP, AND OTHER PRODUCTS
REPRESENTING THE WORLD A LOT
OF THE PRODUCTS ARE EVEN FROM
OTHER WORLDS AND NOT OF CONJURE
ON THE STEEL MILL PLANT AND
WOULD CAUSE EVEN AT TIMES MORE
THAN A POLLUTANT. THE SOLUTION WOULD
TO SHIFT THE PRODUCT ORDER THROUGH
THE SYSTEM AND INFORMATION THE
PRODUCTS OF ORDER OF THE U.S. STEEL
CORP GARY WORKS GARY INDIANA.



November 16, 2007

David Soong
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
USEPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. Soong,

I am writing regarding the Indiana Department of Environmental Management issuing the draft permit to U.S. Steel for continued pollution discharges at the company's Gary Works site. It fails to include limits on toxic chemical and metal discharges into the Grand Calumet River that will flow into Lake Michigan.

Having spent many years working on the Remedial Action Plan for the St. Clair River, I can certainly voice with some experience my concerns over this issue. I would encourage you and your colleagues at Region 5 to refuse to let USS use outdated wastewater standards. Any permit issued should include the following:

- Eliminate the 5-year pass for several pollutants, including mercury
- Include substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River
- Reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollutants

I thank you for the work you do, and also for any consideration regarding our concern over this matter.

Sincerely,


Janice Littlefield

US Co-chair, Binational Public Advisory Council, St. Clair River AOC
923 Michigan Street
Port Huron, MI 48060

7 December 2007

RECEIVED
DEC 12 2007
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA Region 5

David Soong
EPA Region 5
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

David,

I have long been concerned about "legal discharges" into our waterways. Here, in Muskegon, Michigan, I worked with a local group to help clean up Ruddiman Lagoon, which flows into Muskegon Lake and then eventually into Lake Michigan. I know the kinds and quantities of pollutants that continue to pour into Lake Michigan, from many sources.

Is it not prudent to aim to eliminate all pollutants being introduced into our water? Have studies been done to determine when the saturation point will be reached in Lake Michigan?? Why should this generation's financial profit overshadow future generations' need for clean water?

Additionally, I know how much it cost to clean up Ruddiman Lagoon and the technical challenges that had to be overcome. Cleaning up Lake Michigan would present even more problems - both physically and financially. We cannot allow pollution to continue - even at "legal levels".

Please, do all you can to prevent the Gary Works Facility from discharging anything into the Grand Calumet River. Let them find a way to responsibly deal with their own discharges.

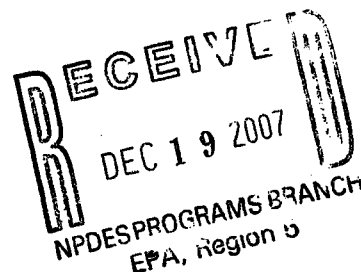
I view the EPA as one of our last protections against corporate greed.

Thank you for the work you do and for providing an opportunity for my input.

[REDACTED]

December 9, 2007

David Soong
EPA Region 5
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604.



Dear Mr. Soong,

Since I am a concerned citizen and unable to attend the EPA public hearing in Gary, ID, that will address U.S. Steel's permit extension, I would like you to consider the following issues.

These are my comments to the EPA:

- U.S. Steel should not be given a five-year pass on discharges of pollutants -- including mercury, ammonia and cyanide -- that are detrimental to water quality and the people and wildlife dependent upon the Great Lakes.
- U.S. Steel's production activities cannot be allowed to impede the region's progress and investments towards environmental remediation and restoration along the Grand Calumet River and Lake Michigan shoreline.
- The final water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River.
- The final permit must ensure a reduction in storm water runoff, which contains unknown quantities of pollution, to Lake Michigan.

I live in Wisconsin and U. S. Steel and other industries that have been polluting our Great Lakes need their permits revisited. If our Great Lakes are to survive, we must care for them. We want to be able to safely drink, to swim and to fish in our waters.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted signature]
[Redacted address]
[Redacted address]
Cedarburg, WI. 53012
[Redacted address]

Telephone Memo

Date: 12/09/2007

Commenter: [REDACTED]

Chicago Resident

Member of Alliance for the Great Lakes

Re: Provide comments on the US Steel draft permit

The commenter left a message in my answer machine and stated the follow:

- Do EPA can to prevent pollute the lakes, we do not need it;
- Say no to US Steel permit;
- Don't increase pollute; in fact, it should go down; they are reliable for it.

[REDACTED]

COLLIERVILLE, TENNESSEE 38017

12/9/07
PLEASE
KEEP POLLUTION OUT OF
LAKE MICHIGAN

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

EVAN BAYH
INDIANA

463 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404
(202) 224-5823
<http://bayh.senate.gov>

1850 MARKET TOWER
10 WEST MARKET STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204
(317) 564-0750

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404

December 11, 2007

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mary A. Gade
Region 5 Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604


Dear Administrator Gade:

I am writing in regard to the U.S. EPA's December 11, 2007, hearing on the renewal of the U.S. Steel Gary Works IDEM water permit. I request that the U.S. EPA consider the following information as part of your final determination.

U.S. Steel Gary Works has been an integral part of the Indiana economy since the plant's inception. U.S. Steel is the largest domestically owned steel company in the United States and Gary Works produces high quality steel products for automobile manufacturers, appliance makers, and countless other consumer products.

The economic contribution that U.S. Steel makes to both Indiana and the United States cannot be overstated—good jobs, good pay, good pensions. In addition, the continuance of domestic steel production is vital to America's national security. My overarching desire is to see continued growth by U.S. Steel coupled with the necessary protection of our air, water, and soil. It is my belief that this coexistence can move forward. Our environment and our economy depend on it.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh
United States Senator

PETER J. ROSKAM

6TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



**COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
SERVICES**

SUBCOMMITTEES:

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GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED
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DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY POLICY, TRADE AND
TECHNOLOGY

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1306

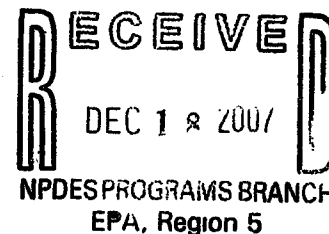
507 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4561
(202) 225-1166 FAX

150 S. BLOOMINGDALE ROAD
SUITE 200
BLOOMINGDALE, IL 60108
(630) 893-9670
(630) 893-9735 FAX

www.roskam.house.gov

December 11, 2007

Mr. David Soong
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590



Dear Mr. Soong,

Please find enclosed a copy of a letter sent to Regional Administrator Mary Gade regarding the December 11, 2007, public hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency's objections to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the United States Steel Corporation's Gary Works facility.

Very Truly Yours,

Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress

PETER J. ROSKAM

6TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS



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(630) 893-9735 FAX

www.roskam.house.gov

December 11, 2007

Ms. Mary A. Gade
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Ms. Gade,

As you know and appreciate, the Great Lakes are the world's largest freshwater system and serve as a source of drinking water, food, jobs and recreation for more than 40 million Americans. Indeed, my constituents and I realize all of these benefits due to our close proximity to Lake Michigan.

Today, I am writing to express my appreciation for your holding of a public hearing regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Gary Works facility of the United States Steel Corporation in Gary, Indiana. It is my hope that we can work together to ensure the health of Lake Michigan is maintained and even enhanced.

Much good work has been done under the leadership of your office to reduce the overall levels of pollution in the Great Lakes, but the significance of the Great Lakes as a public resource requires our continued diligence to guarantee compliance with the antidegradation requirements of the Clean Water Act.

Specifically, I want to highlight my support for your investigation into and resolution of two deep concerns with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) draft permit:

- The Clean Water Act requires compliance with discharge provisions and permits as soon as possible, whereas the draft maintains a varied structure of delayed implementation. It is important that compliance schedules are not unnecessarily delayed; any family in my district turning on the faucet for a drink of water knows this.

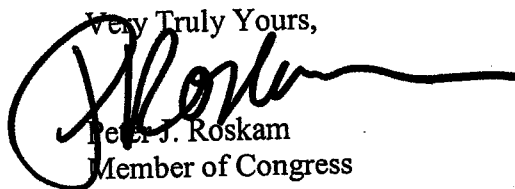
- Further, the draft permit does not contain wastewater limits for a number of pollutants that Indiana has determined to have a "reasonable potential" to violate its state water quality standards. This, again, is unacceptable. In an issue with such bearing on the public health and well-being, it is imperative that we advance our restoration efforts, not degrade the condition of the Great Lakes even further.

The spirit of the Clean Water Act requires that we seek to develop our natural resources in a way that will benefit generations to come. Over recent months, the public voice has swelled against increased pollutant discharge levels into the Great Lakes under NPDES permits, reflecting a widespread care and concern for the Great Lakes.

The draft permit contained a number of objectionable provisions, and I appreciate your attentiveness to the many who expressed a desire to bring the permit under greater public scrutiny. Your action, particularly in prohibiting the enactment of the draft permit before greater public scrutiny could be applied, will do much to serve the quality of the lives of the people of Illinois' 6th Congressional District, and all those in the Great Lakes region.

Thank you, again, for your consideration. I look forward to continuing our partnership to enhance the quality of our Great Lakes. Should you require any additional information, please contact David Mork on my staff at 202-225-4561.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roskam", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress

**Indiana Manufacturers Association, Inc.**

One American Square, Suite 2400, Box 82012 • Indianapolis, IN 46282 • 317-632-2474 • 800-462-7762 • Fax: 317-231-2820

December 7, 2007

David Soong
EPA Region 5
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: NPDES Permit for USS, Gary Works

Dear Mr. Soong:

The Indiana Manufacturers Association (IMA) supports the issuance of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES) to United States Steel Corporation for the Gary Works. Permits issued to industry are of critical importance to the economy and environment in Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) should be commended for its efforts in recent years to reduce the backlog of NPDES permits. The issuance of permits represents progress for the economy and environment. The permits, to say the least, are complicated; and the amount of time invested by IDEM staff and permittee staff is significant.

The permits issued by IDEM, under the auspices of the Clean Water Act, meet both the spirit and letter of the law. It is the hope of the IMA that IDEM will continue to issue quality permits and that our membership will continue to utilize these permits in the manner they are designed: allowing a necessary manufacturing process that is protective of the environment. The use of the permits is a sign of a vibrant economy and also continuous improvement in environmental protection.

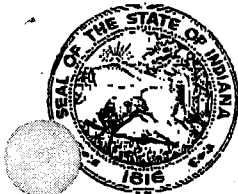
Unfortunately, in the recent past, some have criticized IDEM and permittees for the issuance of permits. The criticism was in large part derived from misinformation and questionable political motive. As a result, the economy and environment suffer; capital will likely be invested elsewhere and continuous environmental improvement through permitting is stifled because the new permits are not put in place.

The environment and the economy would be improved by the issuance of new permits. The IMA encourages the EPA and IDEM to continue striving for improvement on these fronts by continuing to work with permit holders in the issuance of these vitally important permits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick K. Bennett', is written over a horizontal line.

Patrick K. Bennett
V.P. Environment, Energy and Infrastructure



STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

CHESTER F. DOBIS
SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

6565 MARSHALL COURT
MERRILLVILLE, INDIANA 46410

COMMITTEES:
STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, VICE CHAIR
COMMERCE, ENERGY AND UTILITIES
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

December 10, 2007

David Soong, EPA Region 5
NPDES Program Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Soong:

I am writing in regard to the US EPA's December 11, 2007 hearing on the renewal of the U. S. Steel Gary Works IDEM water permit. I would request that the US EPA consider the following information as part of your final determination.

As an elected official in Northwest Indiana, I represent many of the men and women that work at the USS Gary Works. Like my constituents, I am an advocate for improving water quality in Lake Michigan. However, our community and its residents also have historically relied on the economic success of manufacturing and industry, including good paying jobs and benefits that are provided through employment in our local steel industry. Northwest Indiana remains our country's industrial heartland, and I believe we can, and must, preserve our manufacturing jobs, while promoting strong environmental stewardship among our local industry.

As you are aware, IDEM prepared the draft permit for the U. S. Steel Gary Works in strict conformance with water quality criteria, rules, and regulations specific to the Great Lakes Basin. The water quality criteria and rules applicable to the Great Lakes Basin are some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the USA. In fact, the draft NPDES permit prepared by IDEM is more stringent than the NPDES permit currently in effect for Gary Works, and, once approved, will further improve water quality for Lake Michigan.

Accordingly, I feel strongly that we must balance our interest for continued improvement in water quality for Lake Michigan, with the continued successful operation of the USS Gary Works steel facility. To that end, I would request that the US EPA support the permitting process established for Indiana, encourage a resolution on the water permit at issue, and allow this process to advance to a successful conclusion. I am confident that U. S. Steel will continue to operate in compliance with all environmental standards required by law and will do its part to promote continuous water quality improvement for Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chester F. Dobis".

Speaker Pro Tempore
Chet Dobis

STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
4114 BUTTERNUT STREET
EAST CHICAGO, IN 46312

COMMITTEES:
STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION, CHAIR
STATUTORY COMMITTEE ON ETHICS, VICE CHAIR
RULES AND LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES
ROADS AND TRANSPORTATION

December 11, 2007

David Soong, EPA Region 5
NPDES Program Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Soong:

I am writing in regard to the US EPA's December 11, 2007 hearing on the renewal of the U. S. Steel Gary Works IDEM water permit. I would request that the US EPA consider the following information as part of your final determination.

As an elected official in Northwest Indiana, I represent many of the men and women that work at the USS Gary Works. Like my constituents, I am an advocate for improving water quality in Lake Michigan. However, our community and its residents also have historically relied on the economic success of manufacturing and industry, including good paying jobs and benefits that are provided through employment in our local steel industry. Northwest Indiana remains our country's industrial heartland, and I believe we can, and must, preserve our manufacturing jobs, while promoting strong environmental stewardship among our local industry.

As you are aware, IDEM prepared the draft permit for the U. S. Steel Gary Works in strict conformance with water quality criteria, rules, and regulations specific to the Great Lakes Basin. The water quality criteria and rules applicable to the Great Lakes Basin are some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the USA. In fact, the draft NPDES permit prepared by IDEM is more stringent than the NPDES permit currently in effect for Gary Works, and, once approved, will further improve water quality for Lake Michigan.

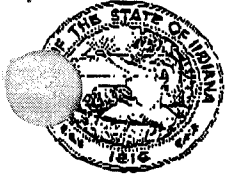
Accordingly, I feel strongly that we must balance our interest for continued improvement in water quality for Lake Michigan, with the continued successful operation of the USS Gary Works steel facility. To that end, I would request that the US EPA consider all of these relevant facts regarding the permitting process established for Indiana, encourage a resolution on the water permit at issue, and allow this process to advance to a successful conclusion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Earl L. Harris
State Representative
District 2



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

David A. Wolkins
501 Pierceton Road
Winona Lake, IN 46590
website: www.in.gov/h18

COMMITTEES:
Environmental Affairs:RMM
Government and Regulatory Reform
Veterans Affairs and Public Safety

December 11, 2007

David Song, EPA Region 5
NPDES Program Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Song:

I am writing in regard to the US EPA's December 11, 2007 hearing on the renewal of the U. S. Steel Gary Works IDEM water permit. I would request that the US EPA consider the following information as part of your final determination.

As you are aware, IDEM prepared the draft permit for the U. S. Steel Gary Works in strict conformance with water quality criteria, rules, and regulations specific to the Great Lakes Basin. The water quality criteria and rules applicable to the Great Lakes Basin are some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the USA. In fact, the draft NPDES permit prepared by IDEM is more stringent than the NPDES permit currently in effect for Gary Works, and, once approved, will further improve water quality for Lake Michigan.

Accordingly, I feel strongly that we must balance our interest for continued improvement in water quality for Lake Michigan, with the continued successful operation of the USS Gary Works steel facility. To that end, I would request that the US EPA support the permitting process established for Indiana, encourage a resolution on the water permit at issue, and allow this process to advance to a successful conclusion. I am confident that U. S. Steel will continue to operate in compliance with all environmental standards required by law and will do its part to promote continuous water quality improvement for Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David A. Wolkins".

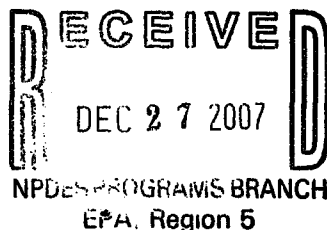
David A. Wolkins
Indiana State Representative
House District 18

DW:ef



6100 Southport • Portage, IN 46368 • 219.763.6303 Phone • 219-763-2653 Fax

December 11, 2007



David Soong
EPA Region V
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: US Steel, NPDES Permit

Dear Mr. Soong:

Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement for the record today. The Northwest Indiana Forum is a membership based regional economic development organization. Our membership of 123 and growing represents industrial and commercial businesses, financial entities, universities, and municipalities within Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties – a diverse group. In total, our membership reflects \$40 Billion in commerce annually on behalf of the State of Indiana.

The Northwest Indiana Forum Environmental Committee comprised of ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor, NiSource/NIPSCO, US Steel, British Petroleum, Barnes & Thornburg, Weaver Boos, Quality Environmental Professionals Inc., and MicroBac Laboratories has been active more than 15 years. Member representatives and Forum staff have participated on critical Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) workgroups as rules, regulations, state statutes and non-rule policy documents have been developed. Additionally, members of our committee serve on the Indiana Water Pollution Control Board. The committee has an adopted mission statement which calls for us to work closely with community and environmental stakeholders to discuss environmental issues at every stage of development so that we can determine areas of agreement and understand those areas where we respectfully agree to disagree. To that end, the Forum continually works to assist our members with public outreach regarding expansion and new project construction so that issues are clearly understood.

On December 6th an important report was released entitled “Review of the BP-Whiting Refinery Wastewater Permit” as prepared by A. James Barnes, Professor of Public and Environmental Affairs and Adjunct Professor of Law with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs at Indiana University, Bloomington. A copy of the report is enclosed for your review. The report and transmittal letter point out a number of

important facts that have bearing on the US Steel NPDES permit. Dr. Barnes stated that he found that the BP permit application and issuance process was "a very straightforward permitting action undertaken in a regulatory regime where Indiana is in some respects actually more protective of Lake Michigan than adjoining states." The IDEM complied with existing regulations and the resulting permit requires limitations that are as demanding and in several cases much more restrictive than those issued by adjoining states to refineries.

At present, there is an absence of environmental permitting certainty in Indiana. From an economic development standpoint, permit applicants must be able to rely on the well defined application and issuance process when considering Indiana for capital investment projects. The absence of such certainty is a detriment to the economic development picture in Northwest Indiana and the state of Indiana as a whole.

IDEM, under Commissioner Tom Easterly, has worked diligently to issue technically, scientifically and legally sound environmental permits, significantly reducing the historical backlog of administratively extended NPDES permits. Recognizing that the same technical, scientific and legal review was performed by IDEM staff in the development of the US Steel NPDES permit, the Northwest Indiana Forum supports IDEM's issuance of this permit and future environmental permits to existing and new businesses as they consider Northwest Indiana as a place to do business.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide written comments on this issue.

Sincerely,



Kay L. Nelson
Director, Environmental Affairs

Enclosures

Copies: John Diederich, Northwest Indiana Regional President
 Chase Bank
 Chairman, Northwest Indiana Forum

 Vincent Galbiati, President/CEO
 Northwest Indiana Forum

 James Flannery, Manager
 ArcelorMittal Steel
 Chairman, Northwest Indiana Forum Environmental Committee



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FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

TO:

Save The Dunes

FROM:

COMPANY:

Waste Water Permit

DATE:

12-14-07

PHONE NUMBER:

TOTAL NO. OF PAGES INC. COVER:

FAX NUMBER:

SENDER'S REFERENCE NUMBER:

RE:

YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER:

US Steel vs Lake Michigan's Health

☐ URGENT☐ FOR REVIEW☐ PLEASE COMMENT

PLEASE REPLY

IDEAS ONLY - NOT A DEMAND!

- ① Have an independent testing agency from either Illinois or Michigan confirm/affirm all chemical quality effluent results. I don't trust Lake Co., City of Gary, US Steel, nor anyone from Indiana associated with IDEM. (Mitch Daniels is not to be trusted)
- ② Has anyone thought about recycling this waste water, if they say that it is cleaner than the raw water? Why discharge any water?

THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS FACSIMILE MESSAGE IS LEGALLY PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ADDRESSED PARTY NAMED ABOVE. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE ABOVE ADDRESSED PARTY, THE READER IS HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISCLOSURE OF THIS FACSIMILE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE

*Lexicus
Press™*

December 15, 2008

David Soong, EPA Region 5
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Soong:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support of the position taken by the Save the Dunes organization regarding the dumping of toxins into Lake Michigan by the steel companies. Why shouldn't industry be required to rehabilitate itself for the good of the living instead of being permitted to pollute because they were allowed to do it a century ago?

Forward and responsible thinking mandates that all of us act responsibly in our stewardship of natural resources. Lake Michigan is a rare gem. Please help all of us protect it together.

Here are the positions stated by Save the Dunes:

1. Lower the cyanide discharges year-round to protect Salmonids living in the Grand Calumet River;
2. Demand demonstrations to show why US Steel should be allowed to increase discharges of contaminants into Lake Michigan;
3. Demand that IDEM develop Total Maximum Daily Loads for pollutants that US Steel is dumping into the Lake; and
4. Require US Steel to decrease the impact of discharging warmed water into the Grand Calumet River

Please accept the enclosed copy of my book, "The Glaciers' Treasure Trove: A Field Guide to the Lake Michigan Riviera" as a token of my appreciation of your commitment Lake Michigan's good health.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature block]

[Redacted line]

RECEIVED
DEC 1 8 2007
NPDES PROGRAMS BRANCH
EPA Region 5

Dear David Song,

I'm against U.S. ~~Steel~~ Steel Corp. discharge
proposed into Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan is too
valuable an asset to pollute. If there's any other
information you can send me please feel free to do
so. I saw your ad in the Sun-times & feel more
Chicago residents would be against this if more
ads were placed and they knew this was ^{being} proposed.

Sincerely

[REDACTED]

RECEIVED
DEC 19 2007
NPDES PROGRAMS BR
EPA, Region 5

12/18/07

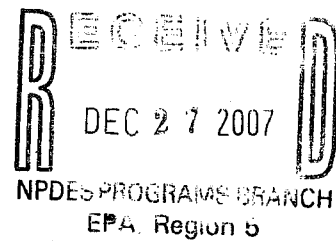
Dear FFA,

This is in regard to U.S. Steel's Gary Works plant and proposed new regulations.

I do not think U.S. Steel, or any other factory, should be allowed to increase the level of pollutant discharges. The fresh water pollution discharge permit must require substantial reductions in the discharge of the ~~poisonous~~ cyanide, chromium, oil, grease and also thermal pollution into the Grand Calumet River. If anything, they should be made to decrease the amount of pollution they are presently releasing into the lake & river. They also need to reduce their storm water runoff.

Sincerely

I live 1 block from the lake and do not want more pollution



State of Indiana

Senate

Senator Edward E. Charbonneau
State House
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2785
s5@in.gov
<http://www.in.gov/s5>

Committees:
Education & Career Development
Homeland Security, Transportation & Veterans Affairs
Public Safety Subcommittee, Chair
Natural Resources
Utilities & Regulatory Affairs

December 22, 2007

David Soong, EPA Region 5
NPDES Program Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Dear Mr. Soong:

I am writing in regard to the US EPA's December 11, 2007 hearing on the renewal of the U. S. Steel Gary Works IDEM water permit. I would request that the US EPA consider the following information as part of your final determination.

As an elected official in Northwest Indiana, I represent many of the men and women that work at the USS Gary Works. Like my constituents, I am an advocate for improving water quality in Lake Michigan. However, our community and its residents also have historically relied on the economic success of manufacturing and industry, including good paying jobs and benefits that are provided through employment in our local steel industry. Northwest Indiana remains our country's industrial heartland, and I believe we can, and must, preserve our manufacturing jobs, while promoting strong environmental stewardship among our local industry.

As you are aware, IDEM prepared the draft permit for the U. S. Steel Gary Works in strict conformance with water quality criteria, rules, and regulations specific to the Great Lakes Basin. The water quality criteria and rules applicable to the Great Lakes Basin are some of the most stringent water quality requirements in the USA. In fact, the draft NPDES permit prepared by IDEM is more stringent than the NPDES permit currently in effect for Gary Works, and, once approved, will further improve water quality for Lake Michigan.

Accordingly, I feel strongly that we must balance our interest for continued improvement in water quality for Lake Michigan, with the continued successful operation of the USS Gary Works steel facility. To that end, I would request that the US EPA support the permitting process established for Indiana, encourage a resolution on the water permit at issue, and allow this process to advance to a successful conclusion. I am confident that U. S. Steel will continue to operate in compliance with all environmental standards required by law and will do its part to promote continuous water quality improvement for Lake Michigan.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
12/11/07

Mr. Soong

I strongly object to U.S. Steel's request for a wastewater permit. I was born and raised in Northwest Indiana and I am raising my children here. My greatest concern about the quality of life here is the pollution. Stop it, please! It poses grave risks to the public's health here. Corporate greed knows no limit. I urge you to place some limits on the polluters. There is a discouraging cycle I would like to see limited: Our environment is being polluted, working people's health standards are lowered, working people's economic opportunities diminish, all the while corporate profits soar off our expense. Just stop it, please!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BLUE
MOUNTAINP.O. Box 605
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4E8

Tel: (705) 445-0357

Fax: (705) 445-8355

E-mail: bmwt@bmts.com
www.bmwt.caRegistered Charity No.
89079 8259 RR 0001

December 28, 2007

David Soong
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Boulevard
Chicago IL 60604-3590

Via Fax: (312) 886-0168

Dear Mr. Soong:

Re: US Steel's Pollution Permit

The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation (BMWTF) was incorporated in 1995 as a Canadian registered charitable organization. Our Mission Statement is: *The restoration, rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable use of the Blue Mountain watershed ecosystem through broad community stewardship.* Our area of interest totals about 50,000 hectares and includes several watersheds that originate in the Niagara Escarpment and drain directly into Georgian Bay.

At our Board of Directors' meeting #11.07 on December 12, 2007, the following resolution was passed unanimously:

WHEREAS: The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation is a grass-roots not-for-profit environmental group actively involved in the preservation of our natural environment, including protection of one of the last remaining coastal wetlands on southern Georgian Bay;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation send a letter to request the United States Environmental Protection Agency to stand strong and not allow U.S. Steel to use outdated wastewater standards to the detriment of water quality, human health and aquatic life. Any permit issued to U.S. Steel should:

- Eliminate the 5-year pass for several pollutants, including mercury
- Include substantial reductions in free cyanide, oil, grease, and thermal pollution to the Grand Calumet River
- Reduce storm water runoff to Lake Michigan containing unknown quantities of pollutants

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

BLUE
MOUNTAIN



P.O. Box 605
Collingwood, ON
L9Y 4E8

Tel: (705) 445-0357

Fax: (705) 445-8355

E-mail: bmwt@bmts.com
www.bmwt.ca

Registered Charity No.
89079 8259 RR 0001

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norman J. Wingrove".

Blue Mountain Watershed Trust Foundation
Norman J. Wingrove, CMA, Vice-President

Cc: Cheryl Mendoza, Policy and Networking Specialist, GLAHNF
BMWTF Board of Directors

EPA Comments - US Steel



**STATE OF INDIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

THIRD FLOOR STATE HOUSE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

December 28, 2007

Edmond L. Soliday
PO Box 1427
Valparaiso, IN 46384
Phone:
Toll Free: 800-382-9841
Website: www.in.gov/h4
E-mail: h4@in.gov

David Soong, EPA Region 5
NPDES Program Branch (WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

COMMITTEES:
Commerce, Energy and Utilities
Roads and Transportation
Technology, Research and Development

Dear Mr. Soong:

I am writing in regard to the US EPA's December 11, 2007 hearing on the renewal of the U.S. Steel Gary Works IDEM water permit.

As a 50 year resident of Northwest Indiana and the elected State Representative from District 4 to the Indiana General Assembly, I like most of my constituents am deeply committed to the continuous improvement of the water quality of our lakes, streams and rivers, particularly Lake Michigan. However, I can also attest to the vital importance of U. S. Steel to the economic well being of my constituents and the state of Indiana.

As, I am sure you are aware, IDEM prepared the draft permit for the U. S. Steel, Gary Works in conformance with the water quality criteria, rules and regulations applicable to the Great Lakes Basin. These are some of the most stringent water quality standards in the USA. It appears that the draft permit is significantly more stringent than the current NPDES permit and once approved will further improve the water quality of Lake Michigan.

In my mind it is imperative that we apply environmental regulation with consistency and fairness applying what is scientifically and technically achievable, while challenging industry to continuously reduce pollutants. However in doing so we must balance our commitment to the highest water quality standards with the economic realities of providing good jobs and stable economic conditions to the people of Northwest Indiana. To that end I would request that the US EPA support the permitting process established for Indiana, encourage a resolution on the water permit issue, and allow this process to advance to a successful conclusion in as timely a manner as possible.

I have met with the environmental people of U.S. Steel a number of times and their attitude has always been one of co-operation and commitment to excellence in complying with environmental regulation. I have no reason to believe that will change in the future.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmond L. Soliday".

Edmond L. Soliday

David Soong
NPDES Programs Branch (WN-16J)
US EPA Region 5
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

RE: U.S. Steel Gary Works Facility's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
Permit (#0000281)

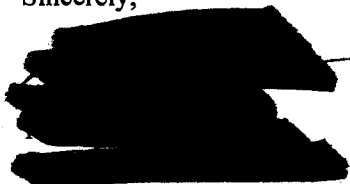
Mr. Soong,

With 20% of the world's available surface water and 90% of the U.S.'s surface water, the Great Lakes represent both a cultural cornerstone of the Midwest and the most significant economic driver for our region. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the world is running desperately low on water. Water stress is being felt even within the United States as areas of the southeast and west have experienced severe drought within the last 2 years. Experts have speculated that water shortage will become an increasingly frequent phenomenon both globally and nationally. The Great Lakes region stands to prosper greatly due to our abundant water resources. However, the future success of the region hinges on our ability to restore and preserve the integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem. I am a graduate student conducting research on the Great Lakes and I am urging you to consider the following suggestions in regards to United States Steel's (USS) NPDES permit:

- 1) Interim discharge limits should be set for mercury, free cyanide, benzo(a)pyrene, zinc, copper, ammonium, and whole effluent toxicity. These interim limits should mandate a reduction in discharge limits each year until full compliance is met after 5 years. The current draft of USS's permit allows a 5-year pass for discharging these pollutants which will result in severe loads to Lake Michigan.
- 2) Eliminate the streamlined mercury variance. Mercury is a persistent bioaccumulative toxin that has resulted in fish consumption advisories around the Great Lakes and a long standing fish consumption advisory in Lake Michigan for women of child-bearing age. We must work diligently toward eliminating mercury discharges into the Great Lakes. I urge U.S. EPA to require USS to follow a compliance schedule to eliminate mercury discharge into Lake Michigan.
- 3) Free cyanide toxicity limits should be established at minimum levels year-round rather than varying seasonal levels.
- 4) Thermal effluent limits should not follow a compliance schedule but should be mandated immediately. USS has not demonstrated that compliance with thermal limits presents undue burden or hardship.

The Great Lakes provide drinking water, jobs, and recreation to tens of millions of people. Furthermore, the economic and cultural future of the region depends on the integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem. For these reasons, I urge U.S. EPA to require USS to comply with the tighter restrictions outlined above. I would be happy to provide additional comments if needed.

Sincerely,

A large, solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature and name of the sender.

County Office:
118 N. Clark St., Room 567
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: (312) 603-4210
Fax: (312) 603-3695
E-Mail: CommQuigley@aol.com



District Office:
1057 W. Belmont Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657
Phone: (773) 935-1010
Fax: (773) 935-3155
www.CommissionerQuigley.com

MIKE QUIGLEY
Commissioner – 10th District
Cook County Board of Commissioners

December 11, 2007

Mr. David Soong
NPDES Program Branch
EPA Region 5 (mail code WN-16J)
77 W. Jackson Blvd.
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: Comments on EPA Objections to Steel Plant Water Permit

Dear Mr. Soong:

Lake Michigan serves as a vital source of drinking and recreational water for millions of Cook County residents as well as many residents of Indiana. A resource as precious as Lake Michigan must be protected. I was shocked to learn from the Chicago Tribune that U.S. Steel's Gary Works was ranked third in the nation among factories that pose the biggest health risk to local communities. Clearly the current regulations at Gary Works are not strict enough to adequately protect the health and safety of our residents.

As to the first objection listed, pertaining to the compliance schedules, I am in strong agreement. The Gary Works' permit has not been reissued since 1994, and to give Gary Works between one and five years to achieve the alterations listed is unnecessary. And as you state, the state has not demonstrated these schedules are appropriate.

Regarding the second objection listed, which discusses wastewater limits for a number of pollutants, I am also in agreement with EPA's stance. U.S. Steel has been cited multiple times for violating the Clean Water Act; therefore, limits on the number of all pollutants must be set. As a conservationist I must add that the Grand Calumet River is a part of the Calumet Area Land Use Plan which seeks to preserve some of the last great wetlands in the State of Illinois. The Grand Calumet River is bounded by natural areas including Burnham Woods and Burnham Prairie, and the proposed Burnham Prairie Expansion is widely considered one of the most important unprotected areas in Illinois and increased pollution would significantly damage this natural area. These precious natural areas must be protected from pollutants emitted by factories such as Gary Works; and by ensuring limits on the number of pollutants discharged we can ensure the protection of our natural areas.

With regards to the third objection, referring to the allowance of increased discharges, once again I strongly agree. I want to emphasize the importance of placing strict limits on mercury and lead. Limits on these two dangerous pollutants have either not been instituted or given a five year pass on

Committees of the County Board. Chair: Environmental Control, Human Relations, Vice-Chair: Litigation
Committees of the Forest Preserve District. Chair: Environmental Control, Finance. Vice-Chair: Audit, Litigation



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District Office:
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Chicago, IL 60657
Phone: (773) 935-1010
Fax: (773) 935-3155

MIKE QUIGLEY
Commissioner – 10th District
Cook County Board of Commissioners

compliance. Gary Works reported discharging 88 pounds of mercury in 2005, although in other documents they also claim their annual mercury discharges are really closer to one to two pounds per year. Even if the one to two pound estimate was accurate, this amount of mercury discharge would still exceed federal water standards. The draft permit must not allow increased discharges of certain pollutants or establish new limitations for others.

As for the last two objections, they are important points and should be addressed and rectified appropriately.

I stand behind EPA's objections and urge them to hold U.S. Steel's Gary Works to the strictest of standards. EPA has done an excellent job holding companies accountable and providing the oversight necessary to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all U.S. citizens. I encourage them to continue their efforts and ensure that U.S. Steel's Gary Works complies with the conditions set forth by EPA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Quigley", is written over a circular embossed area on the left side of the page.

Mike Quigley

